

## NEWS



Jeremy Corbyn keeps other tell-tale items in his living room, below the picture by amateur artist Bosh:

- 1** Is this his mother, Naomi, who is credited as a major influence on her son's socialist views?
- 2** A framed cutting from an editorial in his local paper, the Islington Gazette
- 3** A display box from the Festival of Britain, which took place in 1951. It was spearheaded by Herbert Morrison, the deputy prime minister and grandfather of Peter Mandelson
- 4** Boris Johnson recently called Corbyn an "Islingtonian herbivore". Here are figures of two fellow herbivores: a wooden elephant and a prancing plastic cow
- 5** Wooden beer mugs bearing the coat of arms of Chiapas, a southern Mexican state, base of the militant leftist Zapatista movement. Corbyn's third wife, Laura Alvarez, is Mexican



DENIS DOWLAND/MARK THOMAS/PHOTOMONTAGE

# Bosh the splatterer to be pride of Corbyn's No 10

**Out with the Constables:** the Labour leader would swap Downing Street's traditional artworks for charity shop paintings

#### Gabriel Pogrund

If Jeremy Corbyn becomes prime minister, the walls of 10 Downing Street may soon feature charity shop splatter paintings by a 63-year-old amateur artist whose nickname is Bosh.

It may seem a little premature for the Labour leader to be choosing new decor for the prime minister's office, but Corbyn told The Sunday Times that he would not be relying on the govern-

ment's collection of state-owned masterpieces by leading British artists such as John Constable, Lucian Freud, Barbara Hepworth and Tracey Emin.

Corbyn has been a fan of Bosh ever since he bought one of his abstract paintings for £80 from a charity shop stall at an art festival in Islington, north London, in 2013. "I enjoy abstract art and I've got friends around here who have painted some," he said.

If Labour wins the election, he said he would approach the Peter Bedford Housing Association, a charity for disadvantaged people that sold him the Bosh canvas entitled Yellow Red Orange.

"I'd invite them to sell me something to put up [in Downing Street]," said Corbyn, who also confirmed that his cat, El Gato, would join him at No 10 alongside Larry, the property's chief mouse-catcher.

Bosh's real name is Roy Appleton. He

used to spray paint Rolls-Royces. Since being referred by mental health services to the Peter Bedford charity six years ago, he is said to have "come a long way". Asked about the prospect of his paintings hanging in No 10, he replied: "Seeing my work there would sure get my mojo back. It's lovely news – fame at last."

Appleton said he used to see Corbyn regularly in Islington, where the Labour leader lives: "I used to see Jeremy walking or riding his bike. We'd wave at each other. When he bought my first painting I got to meet him in person. After that ... whenever he sees me he says, 'Hello, I look at that painting every day when I wake up.'"

In the past, prime ministers have tended to rely on the state-owned collection, a treasure trove of 13,500 paintings, sculptures and other works. Theresa May picked out pictures of Oxford, where she

**Bosh, whose real name is Roy Appleton, says he has achieved fame at last**

met her husband Philip, and an English church (she is a vicar's daughter, after all). John Major, an avid cricket fan, chose a portrait of WG Grace, the legendary England captain.

Appleton's efforts are not quite in the same league, although a worker at the Peter Bedford charity compared the amateur's splattered style to that of Jackson Pollock, the American master of abstract

paint-splashing. "It's amazing that Jeremy bought [Bosh's] work," said the charity worker.

"He said he purchased it not because it was the right thing to do or anything like that, but because he's a genuine art lover and it matches his personal tastes."

Appleton likes to put his canvases outside when it is raining so that the water creates a "weatherbeaten" effect. He says they can be viewed from any direction and that, unlike Corbyn's political views, "there is no correct upright position".

In an interview with The Sunday Times last week, Corbyn, 68, showed few signs of stress as election day approaches on Thursday. He chatted cheerfully about coddled eggs – his favourite breakfast – and mushroom risotto, his favourite dish: "A well-made one. Not too watery."

He insisted that the polls giving Labour a glimpse of an upset victory had not

changed his outlook. "I am as I was, I am as I am," he said. "You have to stick to your beliefs and you have to stay in touch with the people who support you initially."

He has rarely given the impression of being a politician obsessed with the levers of power, but insisted: "Everything, everything, everything is about winning on June 8."

Corbyn brushed aside hypothetical questions about his future if he loses on Thursday. "We're not doing ifs, we're doing absolute determination to win this election," he said. "I was elected leader of this party, I will carry on ... to win the election. I have no plans ever to retire."

Not even to take up painting.  
@Gabriel\_Pogrund

**Everything, everything, my lad, is about winning on June 8, page 12**

## Sam Cam, first lady of the wardrobe malfunction

#### Tony Allen-Mills

First she bared her legs in a bedroom snap on Instagram to celebrate her 21st wedding anniversary; now she is baring her soul about having to borrow a bra.

Samantha Cameron has

confessed to "all kinds of disasters" during her time in No 10, which complicated her life in the public eye during her six years as Britain's first lady. "I once had to wrestle a new bra off some poor member of Dave's team," the spouse known as Sam Cam writes in an exclusive column for The Sunday Times Style magazine today. She also

regrets wearing a silk dress to a party conference in 2010 as it ripped when she sat down to listen to her husband's speech. "You can't see it in the pictures, but I had to make sure I was standing on the right side of Dave so you couldn't see the tear!"

She does not explain what happened to her own bra – or exactly whose lingerie she stole – but she warns women in the public eye that looking "appropriate" requires "a lot of advance preparation".

Cameron, who has her own fashion label, Cefinn, also recalls that she once wore a "slightly shorter" polka-dot dress but ended up

**Weaponise your wardrobe, Style, pages 32-33**



Samantha Cameron in her 'cellulite-revealing' dress

## May's Brexit shoes talk loudest on campaign trail

#### Giles Hattersley

While Theresa May has spent her election campaign repeating the words "strong and stable", careful scrutiny below her ankles reveals that her footwear has also been adhering to a dogged message: Russell & Bromley.

Of at least 15 pairs of shoes worn during the campaign, six were made by the upmarket high-street cobbler, which has been deployed as an unlikely political humaniser for Westminster's Queen of Shitoom.

By comparison, Jeremy Corbyn has largely relied on one trusty and increasingly

**British: LK Bennett, Hobbs and, in a thrifty pinch, Clarks.**

On May 6 she wore Russell & Bromley's £225 "Delicious" bow-trimmed flats; on May 22 she went to Gresford, near Wrexham, in £125 "Charlize" metal-trim slippers; she hit Wolverhampton last Tuesday in a £225 pair with "cocktail jewel tassels".

The shoes are worn with sombre suits and a sphinx-like expression. She lets the shoes shout as she sticks to the soundbites. It's a shoe strategy that says: "I'm kooky, I'm an individual, I'm warm" – while crucially never having to be any of those things herself. Smart.

**May's shoes draw the eye on Friday**

## Harry Potter and the producer's secret heartache

#### Richard Brooks Arts Editor

The hit stage play, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, was developed by the producer Sonia Friedman with a storyline intended to show how a child copes without parents.

Friedman reveals today how her own father left home a few months before she was born and she saw him only about once a year for the rest of his life. Her father

Leonard Friedman, a violinist, never told her he loved her or bought her a birthday or Christmas present.

As Potter fans know, Harry's parents were murdered by the dark wizard Lord Voldemort when he was a baby, leaving him to grow up with his horrible aunt and her family.

On today's Desert Island Discs, Friedman says: "I never really had a dad, which

is what has formed what I am. I had no relationship with him. I never even got birthday or Christmas presents from him. Yet I don't blame him as he had a difficult childhood and life himself, simply being told to get on with his music."

"He died in 1994 and just before that I had an urge to see him. We had a meal together and I can recall that he turned to me and said that he was very proud of me."

Clearly fighting back tears, Friedman, 52, adds: "But he never said 'I love you'."

She says she envisaged the Harry Potter play to be "about loss" because of her own circumstances.

"I've never understood what it was like having a dad," Friedman says.

As a result of this she says the character of the young, orphaned Potter resonated powerfully with her. "So I'm always looking for stories

about a dad," she tells the flagship Radio 4 programme.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child was written by Jack Thorne and opened to rave reviews last July. It won a record-breaking nine Olivier awards, the most prestigious theatre prizes, in April.

At the Stage awards in January, Friedman was named producer of the year for the third consecutive year. Her other recent hits have included The Ferryman,

Dreamgirls and a revival of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?.

She says she has been "content" with the choice of not having children, which means she can "work at 2am, 4am or 8am, which I could not do if I was at home cooking for my family".

She admits she was "aware of a gap in my life. Yet I can't regret anything. So I'm evaluating my life now and yet I fill it with more shows".



The Harry Potter stage play has won nine Olivier awards